

RE: House Bill 6645

To Whom It May Concern -

Please add my voice to the others begging for the right to avoid extreme pain at the end of life.

As a young child, my memories include my Great Grandmother dying in great pain. I remember her saying to her doctor "I helped your mother take care of you when you were a baby. Can't you help me join her in heaven now?" He wept when he said he could not.

Not so long ago my beloved mother-in-law, terminally ill with lung cancer, begged us to end her pain. What was my husband to say when she said "Rick, if you love me, take one of your guns and shoot me." Her doctor was at her home, with Hospice nurses. And not one of them could do anything but give more drugs - drugs that took away her dignity, but not her pain.

Please note my signature. I spend a great deal of time, money and love rescuing animals. My oldest dog is 14. She is very healthy - right now. But time will change that. When she is no longer able to enjoy her life, I will take her to the doctor who knows her best. Hold her in my arms, tell her I love her, and rock her as she drifts to sleep and then into death. I will do this because I love her. My mother is 88. She has little quality of life, but she is not in pain. If that changes, if she becomes ill and is in pain, *the law says I can do less for the mother who gave me life than for my dog.* And that says it all.

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Val Darling

Vice President, The Chi Society of CT, The Chi Society West

Dog Rescue and Adoptions

<http://members.petfinder.com/~CT371/index.html>

"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men." ~ St. Francis of Assisi